

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ERDA-05
ACDA-07 OMB-01 OES-06 SSO-00 /075 W
-----231510Z 016258 /42

R 231346Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6982
CNO WASHDC
INFO USCINCEUR
CINCLANT
CINCPAC
CINCPACFLT
CINCUSNAVEUR
COMSEVENTHFLT
COMIDEASTFOR
USMTM DHAHRAN
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

S E C R E T JIDDA 0593

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS, US, BO
SUBJECT: INDIAN OCEAN DEPLOYMENT

REF STATE 11001

1. WE LEARN REFTTEL THAT A THREE-SHIP TASK GROUP LED BY THE USS ENTERPRISE WILL BE DEPLOYED TO THE INDIAN OCEAN FOR APPROXIMATELY FIVE WEEKS BEGINNING 26 JANUARY. IF THE TASK GROUP WILL BE IN THE AREA OF THE GULF OF OMAN/ARABIAN SEA CONSIDERATION MIGHT BE GIVEN TO ARRANGING A VISIT BY A HIGH LEVEL SAUDI DELEGATION LED BY MINISTER OF DEFENSE PRINCE SULTAN TO THE USS ENTERPRISE.

2. WE BELIEVE THAT SUCH A VISIT, DURING WHICH SULTAN COULD
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OBSERVE FLIGHT OPERATIONS, TOUR THE SHIP, AND BE THE GUEST OF THE TASK GROUP COMMANDER AT LUNCH, WOULD HAVE A POSITIVE EFFECT ON US-SAUDI RELATIONS.

3. WE ARE NOT SUGGESTING, HOWEVER, THAT THE ENTERPRISE ENTER EITHER THE PERSIAN GULF OR THE RED SEA. THAT MIGHT GIVE THE WRONG SIGNAL TO THE LITTORAL NATIONS.

4. IF SUCH A VISIT CAN BE ARRANGED, THE SAUDI PARTY MIGHT ARRIVE AT MASIRAH ISLAND AND BE TRANSFERRED TO THE ENTERPRISE BY COD (CARRIER ON BOARD DELIVERY AIRCRAFT). A SIMILAR PROPOSED VISIT ABOUT TWO YEARS AGO DID NOT TAKE PLACE BECAUSE OF SAUDI POLITICAL SENSITIVITY TO TRANSITING OMAN EN ROUTE TO THE CARRIER. UNTIL WE HAVE BROACHED THE MATTER WITH PRINCE SULTAN WE CANNOT BE SURE SIMILAR CONCERNS WILL NOT PREVENT A VISIT AT THIS TIME ALSO. WOULD IT BE PRACTICABLE TO OFFER TO TRANSPORT PRINCE SULTAN DIRECTLY TO CARRIER FROM JIDDA OR RIYADH?

5. ACTION REQUESTED: DUE TO THE TIME FACTOR INVOLVED WE ASK THAT A DECISION BE MADE BY THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES IN WASHINGTON AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
PORTER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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